

October 3, 2018

The Honorable Hank Vaupel, DVM, Chairman
Michigan House Health Policy Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Vaupel,

On behalf of the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS), I am writing to oppose House Bill 5776 in its current form. MSMS represents approximately 15,000 Michigan physicians in all specialties and practice settings.

As currently written, House Bill 5776 inserts the terms "psychotherapy," "diagnosis," and "diagnose" into the definitions of "clinical counseling principles, methods, or procedures" and "counseling techniques." By doing so, this legislation will create confusion and expose the public to risk, as counselors are not qualified by education, training and experience to independently engage in such acts, tasks and functions.

MSMS respectfully requests consideration of the following modifications:

- On page 2, strike the words "psychotherapy" and "diagnosis" from the definition of "clinical counseling principles, methods, or procedures."
- On page 2, strike the words "psychotherapy" and "diagnose" from the definition of "counseling techniques."
- On page 5, add language to clarify that the practice of counseling does not include "medical diagnosis or treatment."
- On page 6, strike the word "diagnosis" from the list of required studies.

Thank you for the opportunity to express MSMS' concerns and suggestions. Your thoughtful consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Betty S. Chu, MD, MBA
President

c: Julie L. Novak, MSMS Chief Executive Officer